CHRISTMAS.

When the Day Was First Celebrated How It Was Made a Fixed Festival--Date of Christ's Birth Unknown.

Many of Our Sports and Games Traceable to Heathen Origin-Gift Giving Comes from the Romans.

The British Druids Contribute Decoration. Our Santa Claus and Christmas Tree Come from Germany.

It is now 1789 years since the birth of the Saviour of mankind was celebrated for sometimes stated, to the New Testament the first time after that glorious morning, account of how kings and wise men made 1887 years ago, when in a rude stable in rich offerings to the infant Jesus. For Bethlehem of Judes, a babe was born the Christmas tree we are indebted to the whom kings and wise men fell down be- ancient Germans, who, during the confore and worshiped. Christmas was first kept as a holiday A. D. 98. Its name yew trees with rude gifts, decorations masse, or mass, and the two words were Claus, Kris-Krinkle, Knicht Rupert and combined to denote a special service in the many other fabulous personages and excepting the grasshopper it would honor of the birth of the Son of God.

For the first three centuries Christmas was one of the most movable of all re- directly by the sweet hands of the loving Saviour's nativity was very uncertain, century, Pope Julius 1. ordered an investi-

fact, as stated by the New Testament, temples be adorned.)

ing December 25 as the date of the great | or remonstrance of any kind.

place these heathen festivities and to lift to follow. up the minds of the people to something | The origin of the yele clog is doubtless

both as a holy commemoration of a most primitive substitute. The Sax as called sacred event and as a mirthful, joyous their principal feast Jul or Yul, and hence festival, but in the middle ages the fes- came to apply the same terms to over-topped its more sacred features that subsiquently when it had been trans- taken altogether, have severely criticised you ever thought that Christ came, among the world's salvation or destruction. In a great audience, most of whom were the clergy were frequently compelled to formed into Christmas, gave at once their check the unseemly merriment of their principal fire and their principal light. flocks. All persons, old and young, were Propany one of the most generally after reading this thrilling episode ate that he should during the first few velvet so soft as a child's cheek? Is and almost the entire assembly stood up. then accustomed to indulge in what were known of the old Christmas observances travagent and burlesque character, is ribald sorgs of the old heathen festivals, friends in the above canyon. One even-

absurdly satirized and burlesqued. At the Coristmas dinners of the old nouse and singing them at the door on portion of the household. The Arizona feudal barons the first dish brought to Christmas eve and being rewarded with fair one at once offered to do her share, table was a huge boar's head, having a Christmas cheer and Christmas spending but the aunt protested. The protest was lemon placed in its mouth. It was car- money, is maintained in many parts of of no avail, however, and shortly afterried in great state the whole length of the Eagland at the present day. Many collec- wards she started for the corral, pail in immense banqueting hall upon a massive tions of these quaint mediaeval carols hand, a typical Maud Muller. The young not a herd freezing in the poorly built and Herschels and Faraday's of their type of Mary, the Mother of Christ. When silver pl tter borne by the major domo of the household, attended by a large number of servants and vassals, and was remained and rescribed an ber of servants and vassals, and was remains, and it contains only two. It is started on the war path. It was a critical placed before the lord of the manor at circfully preserved in the Bodleian cal position, and, as the bull came charged astronomy. They had studied stars, tears while you say to yourself, that was special to the Gazette. the head of the festive board with great pomp and ceremony. It was followed by great trenchers of beef, venison, pork, mutton, turkeys, capons, hens, geese, mutton, turkeys, capons, he ducks, plum puddings, nuts, sugar and honey, and monstrous bowls of punch carrols (nocals) was a moment nonand wassail. Then came Christmas of French carols (noels) was issued at plussed, but he soon recovered from his He will answer in the punishment of electrical batteries, and all the observa- appropriately with reference to the desports and games of many kinds, the festivities being presided over by a
specially appointed officer of the
special the universities shall bow mands of modern life, or whether the dumb brutes.
The special t household called the Lord of Misrule, or have produced even more of these Christ- tell this exciting experience. The bull In the first chapter of Genesis you may morning prayers, thus bowing at the and knit your socks with her own needles wounds about his throat, when Norvelle

which consisted in trying to snatch rais- | ticles. ins from burning brands and place them in one's mouth without dropping them; "Hot Cockles," in which a blindfolded "Hot Cockles," in which a blindfolded "Hot Cockles," in which a blindfolded "The bushes ages and countries of the world. The slight mistake and retired from the bat
They have also paid rent for the places and Agassiz who, standing with his stn.

They have also paid rent for the places.

Sack or else both would be kined. As it turned out, the bull, after discovering the slight mistake and retired from the bat
They have also paid rent for the places.

They have also paid rent for the places and Agassiz who, standing with his stn. person was struck by the other members of the company and required to guess the name of each person dealing him a blow, and "Mumming," which consisted of an difference and "Mumming," which consisted of an difference and "Mumming," which consisted of an difference and the world by fight of possession. Inved and died in the faith of the Gospel, she had when we were sick and what a bight mistake and retired from the bat. They have also paid rent for the places and Agassiz who, standing with his study the exchange of garments between men and c ew for joy all night long. Shakespeare serve when they go into the God who made the rocks." To-day and she could greet us not, for her lips ever thought of it before! Boll your ice. ments of their opposite sex, went from house to house making merry and partaking of Christmas cheer with the inmates. In a very quaint old book of folk-lore, called "Ponred About Onr Coal Fire or called "Ponred About Onr C

Walter Scott's "Memion:" On Christmas eve the bells were rung;

On Caris mas eve the mass was sung; That only night in all the year, haw the stoled priest the chalice rear. Then opened wide the baron's hall, To vassal, tenant, serf and all;
Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And ceremony doffed his pride
The heir with roses in his shoes, That night might village partner choose. All hatled, with uncontrolled delight And general voice, the haupy night That to the cottage, as the crown, Brought tidings of salvation cown. England was merry England when Old christmas brought his sports again. Twas Christmas brewed the mightlest ale, 'I was Chris mas told the merriest tale. A Christmas gambol oft would cheer A poor man's heart through half the year."

The custom of giving presents on Christmas, now so universally observed, is derived from the old Roman Saturnalia or feast of Saturn above mentioned, at which it was customary for all the members of a household to offer gifts to each other, and is not traceable, as has been tinuance of their great feast of the winter solstice, already described, hung large was derived from Christ and the Saxon and lights. From them, too, come Santa charged with the duty of bringing gifts to good children, as does also the beautiful fable that such offerings are brought ligious festivals. The exact date of the "Christ child"—the infant Jesus himself. In the primitive church, Christmas day

and the Eastern church observed the 6th was preceded by an Eve or vigil, and of January as the anniversary of both His hence our Christmes eve of the present birth and circumcision. But in the fourth time, which in the association that cluster around it, in the sports and pastimes, its ancient memories and even in its degation of the matter, and after long de- votions has ever been in all ages second liberation the theologians of both the only to Christmas itself. One beautiful east and west united in appointing De- observance of Christmas eve, having a cember 25 to be kept as Christ's birth- heathen origin, is the decorating of churches and dwellings with evergreen, tleman who had a grain field and garden We have no means, however, of deter- holly, laurel, bays and mistletoe, being a mining the exact date of the Saviour's na- perpetuation of a custom of the old tivity. The statement that the date was British Druids, whose belief it was that the board he drew a wire very tight and but the lips of the earth and the lips of fire to take him up, why not Jesus a carpreserved in the public archives at Rome, kindly sylvan spirits sought these ornathough asserted by some of the early ments of living green and hovered near fathers is not now generally credited. As them, untouched and unharmed by nip- over the board they got fast and hanged to the year, the preponderance of opinion ping frost, until the death of winter. In and of such evidence as we have seem to the old church calendar appointed after strung around every morning with dea ! favor that of 4 or 5 B. C. As to the the universal adoption of December 25, month. December is the height of the as Christmas, the eve of that day is rainy season in Judes, and therefore the marked "templa exomantus," (let the around his field and here and there made

on its plains while stars were shining in Christmas decoration, there has attached, ground. The bunnies would run through | ward-B. C. and A. D. Among conquer- and a child's dimpled hand, and a child's birth, make it extremely unlikely that it "kissing right" that is popularly consid- to get out. Another farmer put boxes and Nantippus and Hannibal and Scipio and bab shood was to be honored for all could have occurred in that month. Many ered as inviolable as any secured to Eng- under his fences with tilting lids. The many limited states past time to come, and a cradle was to mean have for the most part vanished, but we could have occurred in that month. Many ered as inviolable as any secured to Eng- under his fences with tilting lids. The many than a grayle was to mean have grazing on our United States past. learned treatises have been written and lishmen by Magna Charta. Any male outside was firm enough but no sooner who was to be the conqueror of earth and more than a grave. Mighty God! May have grazing on our United States pasterned treatises have been written and lishmen by Magna Charta. Any male outside was firm enough but no sooner than a grave. Mighty God! May ture fields and prairies about 45,000,000 plausible arguments advanced to prove who, during the Christmas season, can would the rabbit attempt to run through that it must have taken place in October, catch a female under a sprig of mistletoe, than the treacherous lid would tip up and but the question will ever remain in abey- is entitled to a kiss which the damsel-be and him in the box below. Then it she maid, wife or widow-is in honor would tip back into its place again and be

the world's history, the worthy fathers the people play upon instruments and and pitch them into a wagon. They often will be cenwere influenced by a desire to supplant sing before the shrines of the Blessed got a wagon load in the morning. The the many heathen festivals of the winter Virgin Mother with the poetical idea of rabbits were fed to the nogs. solstice, such as the Saturnalia or great | chee ing her through the pangs of mater-Festival of Saturn and Ops, which began nity. In Great Britain and on the contion the 19th of December (or, after nent of Europe the church bells ring out Casar's reformation of the calendar, on their loudest and sweetest, while from a brush piled around the pit for some the 17th) and continued for seven days. tradition that the Saviour came into the distance out. Then the men and boys This presumption is made more probable world at midnight, there is celebrated, made a surround, beating the brush up from the fact that for many centuries the punctually at that hour a high mass of and frightening the bunnles towards the festivities of Christmas were prolonged the grandest, most imposing character. pit. When all had closed in the brush never before worshipped at the manger. value, but when he wants to give the Martin Luther from the fields. And betill "Twelfth Night," January 6, and even In Spain, Italy and France especially, the till "Candlemas Day," February 2, while courches are magnificently decorated and little creatures to escape the flames would wonder not that the most frequent name looks around all the populations of our crowded cities will they usually began as early as the night after the midnight mass a collation is jump into the pit. Those that did not fall in all lands and in all Christian centuries universe and then gives a child. The before "All Saints' Day" or "Hallow served to those who have spent Carist- into the pit were roasted or killed by the is Mary. And there are Marys in palaces greatest present that God ever gave our showing the de- mas Eve in this pious work of adornment. the heathen converts | One of the oldest customs of Christmas to Christianity feel that they had Eve and one that is still observed in the lost nothing in harmless pleasure and en- | north of England is that of placing on the joyment by the substitution of the Chris principal fire of every household a great whose ranches were completely overrun tian festival of the winter solstice for the log of wood, called the yule-clog or with rabbits, offered a reward of 5 cents heathen one. Not only did the Romans Caristmas block, where it is supposed to a piece for them, and the boys made good observe this period of the year as a time illuminate the whole house and in every wages killing them. A boy in a day with in the night of the Nativity. All the great every picture a failure unless there be a of mirth and rejoicing. The ancient part of it to turn night into day. The good luck could kill and deliver from painters have tried on canvas to present child either playing on the floor, or look- borored them when he woke up the Celtic and Germanic races did the same. | yule-clogs that burned in the vast balls of fifty to 100, so he made a good sum. Lux | Mary and her child and the incidents of ing through the window or seated on the shepherds by the midnight anthem, and The Germans, especially, were then ac- the old English feudal barons of the mid- & Miller threw the dead rabbits into a big that most famous night of the world's lap gazing into the face of its mother. It he will, while the world lasts, continue to customed to nold great leasts, of which dle ages were huge trees and we are told vat where they were boiled, skin and all, the most prominent continued during the | that even just before the last century the twelve days from December 25 to January | mansion of an English gentleman, resid-6. They believed that throughout that ing near Shrewsbury, was totally detime their great Deities moved about the stroyed by fire in consequence of too flesh. earth, and that, though invisible, their large a yule-log having been lighted on personal movements could be readily his hearthstone. When the yuleclog is not all consumed before dawn, By the celebration of Christmas, with burns on into the light of Christmas day, its grand liturgy, its magnificent its ashes are carefully preserved until the tion. His plan is to inoculate five rabpictorial and next Christmas eve, and are believed to dramatic representations of the principal bring good health and fortune to all the events in the life of Him whose birth it nousehold, but should they be scattered commemorated, the church sought to re- and lost, death and misfortune are sure

higher and holier, but many of the old to be found in the fact that in the West- excess of rabbits cannot be imagined. heathen festive usages were to a certain | ern or Latin church, Christmas was called extent christianized, and not a few of the Feast of Lights, both because many them have survived even down to our lights or candles were used in its celeown time. Indeed, so much is this the bration, and because Christ, whose birth case that many of our most distinctively it commenorated, was to become the Christmas customs, sports and games light of the world, and as the yule clog can be distinctly traced to a heathen dates far back beyond the use of candles by many nations who had embraced The day was regarded from the first Christianity, it was probably used as a "December liberties," Bex's to the giving of presents is the singand ing of Christmas carols. These were most ex- pious canticles designed to replace the which everything and everybody were and the custom of children, and even ing when the head of the family was away grown people, going about from house to the milking naturally fell on the female

than by the following passage from Sir of the far north change to wolves on Christmas eve, and so rage against all human nature as to harm mankind more than do the attacks of real wolves. It is a matter for regret that large numbers of these human wolves are to be found in The Story of the Nativity Told by our own country as well as well as in Sweeden, and that the exercise of their wolfish nature is not confined to Christ-

IDAHO'S RABBIT PLAGUE.

General Brisbin Says it is Almost as Bad There as it is in Australia.

Fort Mckinney, Wyo T., Letter to New York World. The rabbits are again becoming a plague in many portions of Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming. These little bunnies bid fair to do as much damage in our country as they have in Australia, unless timely steps are taken for their extermination. In Australia, in many places, they have eaten up the whole of the country, even the sheep pastures being quired against so small an animal as a rabbit, but the English colonists of Australia are glad enough to have the government aid them in destroying the little pests. Everything green and every blade of grass is eaten by them to the earth, be impossible to conceive of anything more destructive to vegetation than a rabbit. They appear in vast armies, and moving across a country strip it of all vegetable matter. Gardens are their special delight, and not a vegetable is left where they can once take hold.

When out in Idaho, a year or two ago, I had some experience with rabbits. They unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which appeared in great numbers along the Oregon Snort Line, and in some towns destroyed all the gardens. Near Boise they attacked the grain fields and even the pastures. The methods of destroying them were sometimes novel. One genpatch surrounded the field with a board on his fence next to the ground. Above just close enough to the board to let the rabbits' head through. In trying to get themselves. His field was pretty well rabbits.

Another farmer put a brush fence a hole through it. On the other side of

Another method was the "surround." A large pit or hole was dug in the ground where the rabbits were thickest, and pitchforks.

Lux & Miller, the great cattle raisers, and then fed to the hogs to fatten them. It is said they make good hog feed, and Guirlandjo surpassed the hogs fatten very rapidly upon rabbit

Pasteur, the great French specialist and curer of mad-dog bite by inoculation, says he can kill off all the rabbits in the United States and Australia by inoculabits with chicken cholors and let them go | presentation of the Holy Family. But all of the squabbling disciples to teach the among the other rabbits. The disease is very contagious and fatal, and he contends they would soon give it to each other and all die off. It is certainly worth trying, for a greater pest than an JAMES S. BRISBIN.

THE BUSTLE IN A NEW ROLE.

The Way in Which it Saved a Young Lady's Life.

Haywards (Col.) Journal.

We don't believe history has chronicled a more singular escape from death than occurred in Redwood canyon last week. part of the female wardrobe, but ago and spent a very pleasant visit with play the milkmaid act.

To the Editor:—Please inform your readers a positive remedy for the above

CHRIST'S BIRTH,

Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage -- The Advent of the Redeemer of Mankind on Earth.

Hew Childhood and Motherhood Were Honored; the Cradle Made to Mean More Than the Grave.

How the Child of To Day is to Settle al Destinies and Usher in the World's Salvation or Destruction.

"THE BARN AND ITS SURROUNDINGS." Special to the Gazette.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Dec. 25 .- Services destroyed by them. It seems strange to-day at the Brooklyn Tabernacle were that national legislation should be re- jubilant. Professors Browne and Ali, with organ and cornet, were unusually sang three solos. The thousands of people who packed the church and all the approaches, seemed to join in the great chorus:

He shall reign from pole to pole With i'limitable sway; He shall reign, when, like a scroll,

Yonder heavens have passed away. said one to another, let us now go even fevered meat for is come to pass." Dr. Talmage said:

One thousand years of the world's ex-

neaven. and the slow month and the slow hour at | Enough have all those fathers and mothlast arrived. The world had had matins ers on hand if they have a child in the It seems not improbable that in select- bound to accord him without resistance ready for another rabbit. In the morning and vespers house. A throne, a crown, a scepter, a dressers, an organization of near the morning and vespers house. A throne, a crown, a scepter, a dressers, an organization of near the morning and vespers house. A throne, a crown, a scepter, a dressers, an organization of near the morning and vespers house. A throne, a crown, a scepter, a dressers, an organization of near the morning and vespers house. ing the boys, armed with pitchforks, or concerts in the evening, but now it is kingdom under charge. Be careful how were thrown open, and some of the best tennial and millennial, and a hundred stood there, and putting back the drapery | the echo and re-echo. Do not say, "It is of cloud chanted a peace anthem, until only a child." Rather say, "It is only all the echoes of hill and valley applauded an immortal." It is only a masterpiece and encored the Hallelujah chorus.

that Christmas scene as though we had sources and he can give presents of great Daniel Webster from the fields. was fired all around the outside, and the Here is a Madonna worth looking at. I richest possible gift to a household he men and boys who stood close together and Marys in cabins, and though German around the outside armed with clubs and and French and Italian and Spanish and he gave it on a Christmas night, and it English pronounce it differently, they are

history. Raphael in three different mas- was a child in Naaman's kitchen that told honor the fields. When the shepherd's terpieces, celebrated them. Tintoret and the great Syrian warrior where he might crook was that famous night stood against more than his Madonna to become im- cradie of leaves in which a child was laid mortal. The Madonna of the Lily, by rocked by the Nile that God called the atation of all ages. Murillo never won that evoked Christ's curative sympathies. town. greater triumph by his pencil than in his It was a child that Christ set in the midst gallery containing the Sistine Madonna. vet so domesticated that a little child Matthew's Madonns, and Luke's Ma showing the army of Blucher how they to have under our heads when we die.

for the arresting of their tortures and the merely "happen so"that the unintelligent

tril, that he might be the alleviation of brutal suffering as well as THE REDREMER OF MAN.

Standing then, as I imagine now I do,

in that Bethlehem night with an infant Christ on the one side and the speechless creatures of God on the other, I cry: Look out how you strike the rowel into that horse's side. Take off that curbed bit from that bleeding mouth. Remove that saddle from that raw back. Shoot not for fun-that bird is too small for food. Forget not to put water into the cage of that canary. Throw out some crumbs to those birds caught too far north in the winter's inclemency. Arrest that man who is making that one horse draw a load neavy enough for three. Rush in upon that scene where boys are torturing a cat or transfixing butterfly and grasshopper. Drive not off that old robin for her nest is a mother's cradle and under her wing there may be three or four prims donnas of the sky in training. And in your families and in your schools teach the coming generation more mercy than the present generation has ever shown, and in this marvelous Bible picture of the Nativity, while you point out to them the angel, show them also the camel, and while they hear the powerful, and Mrs. Florence Rice-Knox celestial chant let them also hear the cow's moan. No more did Christ show iaterest in the botanical world when he said, "Consider the lilies," than he showed sympathy for the ornithological when he said, "Behold the fowls of the air," and the quadrupedal world when he allowed himself to be called in one place a lion as the subject of his sermon, "The Barn may the Christ of the Bethlehem cattle dressed good enough to come in." "Yes, and Its Surroundings." His text was pen have mercy on the suffering stocktaken from Luke II. 15: "The shepherds | yards that are preparing diseased and OUR AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS. Behold also in this Bible scene how on

that Christmas night God honored childistence rolled painfully and wearily hood. Christ might have made his first along, and no Christ. Two thousand visit to our world in a cloud, as he will years, and no Christ. Three thousand descend on his next visit in a cloud. In years, and no Christ. Four thousand what a chariot of illumined vapor he and Jerusalem snoring in deep sleep, and years, and no Christ. "Give us a might have rolled down the sky escorted there were salaried officers of government Christ," had cried Assyrian and Persian by mounted cavalry with lightning of and Chaldean and Egyptian civilizations, drawn sword. Elijah had a carriage of the sky made no answer. The world had riage of fire to fetch sim down? aiready been silluent of genius. Among Or, over the arched bridge of poets had appeared Homer and Thespis a rainbow the Lord might have and Aristophanes and Sophocles and Eu- descended. Or Christ might have had ripides and Alexis Æschylus, yet no his mortality built upon earth out of the Christ to be the most poetic figure of the dust of the garden, as was Adam, in fuil centuries. Among historians had ap- manhood at the start without the intropeared Herodotus and Nenophon and ductory feebleness of infancy. No, no! the major key and the last in the sub-Thucydides, but no Christ from whom all | Childhood was to be honored by that adthat shepherds were watching their flocks To the mistletoe, a favorite bough for the holes he sank large boxes in the history was to date backward and for vent. He must have a child's light limbs, But the slow century and the slow year face be seen in all infantile faces. singers of a world where they all sing years and a thousand years will not stop of Jehovan. It is only a being that shall At last the world has a Christ and just outlive sun, and moon, and star, and ages tyrs, Garfield and Lincoln, from the the Chrst it needs. Come, let us go into quadrillennial. God has infinite reworld he gave about 1887 years ago, and was of such value that Heaven adjourned stead of ten merchants desiring to sell have traveled far and with many a heartfor a recess and came down and

themselves | go and get cured of the leprosy, which at in the Adoration of the Magi. his seventh plunge in the Jordan was left it was a prophecy of the time when Corregio needed to do nothing at the bottom of the river. It was to the when I think of the small room of that that wolf and leopard and lion shall be Yet all of them were copies of St. shall lead them. Achild decided Waterloo, when we were infants and that we hope the Prussian general would have come Behold, in the first place, that on the rope. It was a child that decided Gettysthat Bethlehem barn without going past | they decided to march for Gettysburg inthe camels, the mules, the dogs, the oxen. stead of Harrisburg, and this reported to The brutes of that stable heard the first Governor Curtin, the Federal forces child's hair?

ladies should have an extra bustle in re- dogs. And who can tell what the world study these rocks let us pray for wisdom sad day that was when we came home thought! And so strange that nobody transportation? And robin and lark have the greatest doctors and lawyers of by the cantatas with which they have Brooklyn and New York, and of all this this Christmas day and take your old you are to make the ice to contribute to filled orchard and forest, more than paid land, and of all lands, revere the Christian place and, as ten or twenty or fifty years its original purpose after boiling it is for the few grains they have picked up religion, and are not ashamed to say so ago, come and open the old Bible you somewhat difficult to see. But never

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fore whom nigh 2000 years ago Caspar, and Belthasar, and Melchior bent their tired knees in worship.

Behold also in that first Christmas night that God honored the fields. Come in, Rev. T. D. Witt Talmage, D. D., took and in another place a lamb. Meanwhile, child. "No," they say; "we are not you are, come in." Sure enough, the storms and the night dew, and the bramoles have made rough work with their stores from the A apparel, but none have a better right to come in. They were the first to hear the music of that Christmas night. The first announcement of a fiSavior's birth was made to those men in the delds There were wiseacres that night in Bethlehem who, hearing of it afterward, may have thought that they ought to have had the first news of such a great event, some one dismounting from swift camel at their door and knocking till at some sentinel's question, "Who comes there?" the great ones of the palace might have been told of the celertial arrival. No, the shepherds heard dued minor: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all those who toil in fields, all wire-dressers, all orchardists, all husbandmen. days: effects to 21 hours; almost immediate Not only that Christmas night, but all up est event save one—the crucifixion—in On Christmas Eve in all parts of Italy the world's history, the world's history, the world's history, the world's history, the world's history and down the world's history are all parts of true and down the world's history are all the plants.

> Washington from the fields. Jefferson from the fields. The Presidential marfore this world is right the overflowing that one apple, we want at least eight of muscular arms. To the fields! God for us right beside you at the parquet. the wall of the Bethlehem kahn, thresher's flail, and farmer's plough, and woodman's axe, and ex's yoke, and sheaf binder's rake shall surrender to the God

Leonardo da Vinci, will kindle the admir- tention of history. It was a sick child who made the country as man made the night God honored motherhood. Two awoke, by divine arrangement and in able cradle of the village. But no. no! up too late to save the destinies of En- Motherhood for all time was to be conse-

HAS HONORED GOOD MOTHERHOOD.

John Wesley had a good mother. St. cry of the infant Lord. Some of the old started to meet their opponents at Gettys- Bernard had a good mother, Samuel painters represent the oxen and camels burg. And the child of to-day is to de. Budgett a good mother, Doddridge a bustles, which are a most important other things, to alleviate the sufferings of Men, women, nations, all earth and all Christians, I asked that all those who had the brute creation? Was it not appropri- heaven, behold the child! Is there any been blessed of Christian mothers arise, should "forever hold their peace." A days and nights of His life on earth be there any sky so blue as a child's eye? Is Don't you see how important it is that all handsome young lady of sweet seventeen surrounded by the dumb beasts whose there any music so sweet as the child's motherhood be consecrated? Why did arrived from Arizona a couple of weeks moan and plaint and bellowing have for voice? Is there any plume so wavy as a Titian, the Italian artist, when he sketched the Madonna make it an Italian Notice also that in this Bible night face? Why did Rubens, the German artist, in his Madoena make it a German face? Why did Joshua Reynolds, the Who are the three wise men kneeling English artist, in his Madouna, make it creatures of God should have been that before the divine infant? Not boors, not so English face? Why did Murillo, the night in close neighborhood. Not a ignoramuses, but Caspar, Belthasar and Spanish artist, in his Madonna make it a kennel in all the centuries, not a bird's | Melchior, men who knew all that was to | Spanish face? I never heard, but I think nest, not a worn-out horse on towpath, be known. They were the Isaac Newtons that they took their own mothers as the the Abbott of Unreason, who reigned superme from 'Hallow Eve,' October 31, to "Candlemas Day," February 2.

The Wales contain respectively versions were "Snap Dragon," a game version were version were versions were "Snap Dragon," a game version were back or else both would be killed. As it day. The whale, the eagle, the lion, and land Valentine Mott, and Abercrombie, long life, if you painted a Madonna hers Dallas.

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again keep Christmas from your cave to take to the fields. Instead of ten | thrones, all you glorified mothers, and say to all these, your sons and daughters, them to get out and raise apples. In- of cheer. They need your voice, for they that one bushel of wheat, we want at break since you left them, and you do well whom we find on a bed of straw with her to look at it. Yea, in all ages God has wheat. The world wants now more valleys of earth. Hall, enthroned anpale face against the soft cheek of Christ honored childhood. He makes almost hard hands, more bronzed cheeks, more cestry! We are coming. Keep a place "Slow footed years! More swiftly run

Into the gold of that unse ting sun. Iomesic w are for thee, Calm land beyond the sea.'

RACES IN AFRICA.

The Steeds are Fleet Footed Ostriches and the Runs are Fine.

We were treated to an exhibition which the frames of which were made of bamboo the galleries of Dresden are forgotten lesson of humility. We are informed angels on their wings might have brought and the wheels similar to those of a vean Infant Savier to Bethlehem without | lecipede, weighing, all the gear included. Mary's being there at all. When the vil- | thirty-seven pounds, were brought forthfree lagers, on the morning of December 26, and four very large ostriches trained tour donna, the inspired Madonna of the Old could take a short cut through the fields some unexplained way, the child Jesus attached to each one. The race cours see Book, which we had put into our hands when, if the old road had been followed, might have been found is some comfort- was a flat piece of country about four and a quarter miles in length; the distance to be traveled was four miles straight away crated, and one of the tenderest relations and return. Two of the smallest specifirst night of Christ's life God honored burg, he having overheard two Confed- was to be the maternal relation, and one mens of Af ican humanity ever seen, less the brate creation. You cannot get into erate generals in a conversation in which of the sweetest words "Mother." In all than four feet in height, and weighing about seventy-two pounds each, Boiesmen pure and simple, were selected as charioteers, and all was ready. I had been provided with a magnificent sixteenhands high English hunter, havkneeling that night before the new-born cide all the great battles, make all the good mother, Walter Scott a good ing a record placing him smong tive observances of the day often so far the log which on that grea occasion and the mother, Benjamin West a good mother. The male sex, who are an unfeeling lot, babe. And well might they kneel. Have laws, settle all the destinies and usher in the log which on that grea occasion and the mother, Benjamin West a good mother. Cape Town, and was quarter way toward the turn of the course, pushing my fresh steed to do his best, when the feathered bipeds started, and before I reached the turn the ostrich charlots had passed me, going and returning like a fish of lightning. I did see them, and y-t so quickly did they vanish into distance tost a pen picture, valuable for its accuracy, can not be given. The time

PISTOL AND KNIFE.

taken at the starting point by several of

the spectators was, for the four miles and

return, nearly nineteen minutes, not very

fast for ostriches, so they said, but too

rapid for English hunters, I know.

Dallas, Tex., Dec. 25 .- This evening Tom Spivey and George Norvelle met and fought with pistol and knife. About two

> Bolled Ica. Philadelphia Telegraph.

In a very quaint old book of folk-lore, called "Poured About Our Coal Fire, or Carlstmasse Entertainments," I find the rights are wholesome; then no plant strikes:

Obsamption facely our readers that have a positive femoty for the above on their sustenance. When you are safe from the strikes:

The hights are wholesome; then no plant strike its creator, and you insult the creation and strike that; first boil is of Ages. Allipotany will yet worship the correct strikes:

The hights are wholesome; then no plant strikes in the state of of you and gendents. The hights are wholesome; then no plant strikes:

The hights are wholesome; then no plant strikes in the state of of you and then high little matter like that; first boil is of Ages. Allipotany will yet worship the correct of God you insult they fit can be plant the strikes:

The hights are wholesome; then no plant strikes in the state of the you are safe from the Shall geology will yet worship the Christ who, though he plant the creation and say, we must by the plant they fit can be plant the sustenance.

The hights are wholesome; then no plant strike its creator, and you insult the creation who in the creation of the live in the fit is the Line and the line and kneed the say of